-- 17. The method of claim 1, wherein extra input stream data before the punch in signal and after the punch out signal contained in the media file are accessible by manipulating a pointer to allow selective shifting of effective punch in and punch out points of the media file. --

Q3

-- 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the time interval, during which the data corresponding to the media input stream is continuously saved in the buffer, starts and terminates independently of the punch in signal and the punch out signal. --

REMARKS

In response to the above identified Office Action, applicant has amended the claims and seeks reconsideration thereof. In this response two claims have been amended, no claims have been cancelled, and two claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are pending.

Claim 1 and its Dependent Claims

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,642,492 to Iizuka (Iizuka). Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for providing enhanced editing capability to overcome difficulties associated with precisely timing the punch in and punch out points. The claimed method generally includes the steps of receiving a media input

stream, saving data corresponding to the media input stream in a buffer continuously during a time interval, and selecting portions of the buffer for storage in a media file on a mass storage device responsive to a punch in signal and a punch out signal. Because data corresponding to the media input stream is continuously saved in the buffer, the claimed method is able to select a portion of the media input stream corresponding to a time window greater than a time window between a punch in signal and a punch out signal for storage in a media file on a mass storage device. Such media file recorded in accordance with the present invention can be used to record over a region of an existing track of media data. By virtue of this extra input stream data contained in the media file, the beginning and ending of the recorded region can be precisely timed even if the punch in is too late or the punch out is too early.

To obtain the above-describe advantage, the present invention saves a media input stream continuously throughout a time interval, independent of a punch in signal and a punch out signal. This is required by independent claim 1 which requires "saving data corresponding to the media input stream in a buffer continuously during a time interval."

Such method is readily distinguished from Iizuka, the only publication on which the Examiner relies. Iizuka discloses a digital recorder which employs punch-in and punch-out processes. Iizuka does not disclose saving data corresponding to a media input stream in a buffer continuously during a time interval, independent of punch in and punch out operations. Rather, Iizuka inputs data to a buffer 9-4 from an audio I/O device during a punch-in operation (Col. 24, lines 46-50). Since Iizuka

does not input data to a buffer continuously during a time interval, as claimed in Claim 1, Iizuka does not disclose the present invention as claimed by Independent Claim 1.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Iizuka does not disclose the subject matter of Claims 1-8 and the corresponding rejections based on Iizuka should be withdrawn.

Claim 9 and its Dependent Claims

Claims 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,642,492 ('492) to Iizuka. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iizuka. Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 9 is directed to a system for providing enhanced editing capability of media data. The claimed system generally includes a signal processor for processing a media input stream, a buffer coupled to the signal processor for continuously loading data corresponding to the media input stream while the media input stream exists, and a mass storage device coupled to the buffer for storing a media file derived from the media input stream. Because data corresponding to the media input stream is continuously loaded into the buffer, the claimed system is able to store a media file derived from the media input stream which includes media samples preceding a punch in signal and media samples following a punch out signal in addition to media samples received between the punch in signal and the punch out signal. As noted above, the extra media samples preceding the punch in

signal and following the punch out signal contained in the media file provide certain advantages in allowing selective shifting of effective punch in and punch out points. In this regard, the beginning and ending of the rerecorded region can be precisely timed even if the punch in is too late or the punch out is too early.

As noted above, Iizuka does not disclose loading data corresponding to the media input stream into a buffer continuously while the media input stream exists. Iizuka is instead directed to a digital recorder which inputs data to a buffer 2-4 from an audio I/O device during a punch-in operation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claims 9-16 based on Iizuka should be withdrawn.

The Examiner also noted certain informalities with respect to the disclosure and Claims 1 and 8. Each of these matters is believed to be addressed by the amendment submitted herewith.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible data.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 6/13/00

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 13, 2000.

Lillian E. Rodriguez — 6-13-00 Date